



Memorandum

DATE: February 1, 2019

TO: Interested Stakeholders

FROM: Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program Staff

RE: National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Clearance for Round 4 Applicants

Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program staff are aware that there may be delays in obtaining National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental clearance for AHSC projects that are receiving federal funds because of the federal government shutdown.

The Strategic Growth Council (SGC) is committed to preventing these circumstances, which are outside of applicants' control, from affecting the competitiveness of AHSC projects. As such, program staff will propose a guideline amendment to the Round 4 Guidelines Section 106(a)(8) at the February 19, 2019 Council meeting. **Changes would retroactively extend the deadline for applicants to submit their NEPA clearance to extend eligibility for projects affected by the partial federal government shutdown.** Further Council action will be evaluated as needed.

The Round 4 FY 17-18 solicitation period will still close on February 11, 2019. If prospective applicants previously expected to receive their NEPA clearance prior to the application deadline, but were unable to because of the partial federal government shutdown, SGC asks that they continue to apply.

Instructions for Affected Applicants

Applicants that have submitted their NEPA documents and are still waiting for clearance when the solicitation period closes need to complete the following **three steps**:

1. **Submit proof of NEPA submittal:** Submit proof that the project applied for NEPA clearance a reasonable amount of time ahead of the application deadline. Name this FFAST document "NEPA Clearance."
2. **Document in AHSC application workbook:** Within the AHSC application workbook, make a note on what date NEPA clearance was applied for and that clearance has yet to be received. Do so in row 81 of the AHSC application workbook's *AHD-HRI* tab where applicants can "describe any special circumstances".

3. **Submit NEPA approval:** Once a determination is received, send that determination to ahsc@hcd.ca.gov.

This issue will be considered at the February 19, 2019 Strategic Growth Council meeting. A staff report will be posted at least ten days prior to this meeting and can be found on the SGC website. Affected applicants will receive further guidance following this meeting. For those who wish to attend the meeting, the meeting information is below.

Strategic Growth Council Meeting

Meeting date and time: February 19, 2019, 1:00–4:00 pm

Meeting Location: California Environmental Protection Agency
Sierra Hearing Room
1001 I Street | Sacramento, CA 95814